

RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

FY19 Grants in District Two

\$149,000 invested through 20 grants

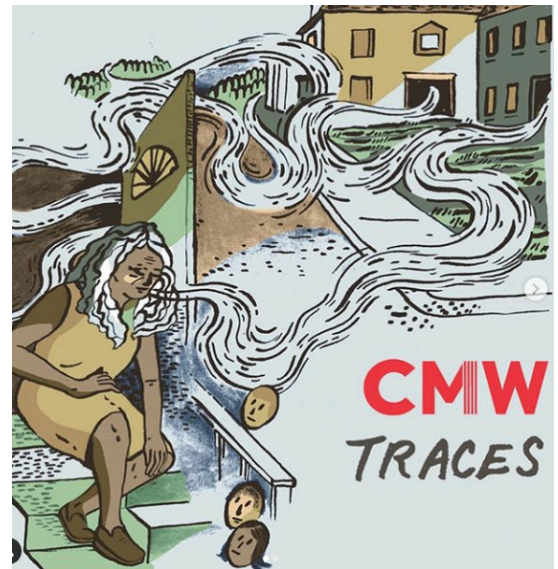
Public Project Grants

In support of organizations and projects that enrich and enliven the life of our state through the humanities.

Major Grant Awards

Community MusicWorks, \$11,000 to *Traces*

Funds support a history-based performance project tracing the “sonic memory” of the neighborhood and new home of Community MusicWorks—the West Side of Providence. Working with students and community members, a public scholar facilitates the collection of oral histories that inform the development of several sound installations and performances.



FirstWorks, \$8,250 to *Raise Your Voice: “Outsider”*

Perspectives and Performance

Support for public discussions and performances exploring the roles of gender and sexuality in shaping historical representative and artistic production. A performance reimagining the history of American music through a queer lens will be recorded and shared with audiences statewide.

Generation Citizen, \$11,000 to *Improved Civics Education for English Language Learners*

Support for the adaptation of Generation Citizen’s extant educational materials for English language learners (ELL). Working with scholars from Rhode Island College, Generation Citizen’s new civic education materials are piloted with ELL teachers and students in Providence and Central Falls.

New Urban Arts, \$12,000 to *Art Inquiry: The Immigrant Story*

Support for a robust summer education program at NUA rooted in humanities learning and skills. The interdisciplinary program engages low-income youth from Providence public high schools. Students’ research and artmaking connects to experiences of immigration and the demographic and cultural legacies of the Pond Street Neighborhood of Providence.

Providence Children's Museum, \$10,230 to *Cultural Connection at the Providence Children's Museum*

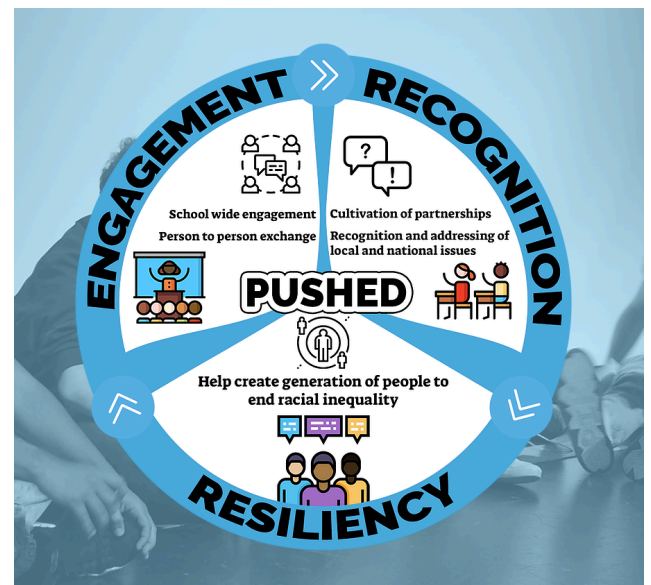
Funds support the cultural connections program at the Providence Children's Museum that brings local artists and humanists to the museum for family-oriented programs exploring history, heritage, identity, and culture. The programs take place the first Saturday of every month.

Providence Public Library, \$6,895 to *Within a Lifetime: Immigration and the Changing City*

Support for a conversation series exploring the complexities and universalities of immigration to Rhode Island as reflected in the history of the Pond Street Neighborhood. The series focuses on six interrelated themes: education, law enforcement, citizenship, voting rights, worker rights, and housing.

Pushed Learning and Media, \$12,000 to *Curriculum Implementation and Long-Term Curricular Design in Rhode Island Public Schools*

Support for public programs connecting students with performers and educators who utilize hip hop and humanities learning to explore the state's economic, racial, and cultural divisions. School-wide performances, individual classroom work, instructional videos, and afterschool programs allow students to understand the varied life experiences of fellow Rhode Islanders who live so close but are worlds apart.



Rhode Island Historical Society, \$10,465 to *EnCompass: A Digital Archive of Rhode Island History*

Funds support seven additional chapters for the online Rhode Island digital history textbook EnCompass. Working with partner scholars and institutions, new chapters cover topics ranging from indigenous history to the Gaspee Affair, women's suffrage, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Warwick Center for the Arts, \$5,000 to *Public Educational Exhibit Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment*

Funds support the planning stages of a program series celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The planning stages of the project result in the creation of a project plan, partners list, and detailed list of resources required to explore 100 years of women's suffrage in 2020.

The Wilbury Theatre Group, \$12,000 to *The Olneyville Expo: A Chautauqua-Style Celebration of Olneyville Past, Present, and Future*

Support for a neighborhood-based program engaging artists, scholars, and community members in a celebration of all that is Olneyville. Connecting to the annual PVD Fringe Fest, the Chautauqua will be family-oriented and explore topics such as history, cultural heritage, community, and artistic production.

Mini Grant Awards

GEAR Productions, \$2,000 to *Knowing Home*

To support a production of *Knowing Home*, a musical about the varied history and experiences of those who have called South Kingstown home. Featuring roles for children of all abilities, the production introduces 150+ novices to the thrill of performance and the value of local history.

India Association of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *Youth Engagement for Cultural Expansion*

Funds support a three-day enrichment program for Rhode Island youth rooted in activities and ideas connected to Indian history and culture. Through contests in poetry, painting, storytelling, dance, athletics, and games, students engage with and practice their cultural heritage.

Rhode Island College, \$2,000 to *Anna and Ahana – A Contemporary Adaptation of Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s The Yellow Wallpaper*

To support a short film adaptation of the *The Yellow Wallpaper*, an early feminist work by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Altering the time period and culture of the protagonist, the film explores issues of isolation, alienation, and abuse within immigrant communities in the United States.

University of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *Public Memory, Place, and Belonging on Block Island*

To support the planning stages of an exhibit exploring the continuous history of Native and African-American peoples on Block Island over the last 400 years. The project begins the process of repatriating narratives of Native and African-American individuals often left out of the standard history and cultural traditions of Block Island.

Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *RADical Women 2020*

Funds support a traveling exhibit and program series commemorating the efforts of women and their allies that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment and women’s suffrage in the United States. The series looks backwards and forward, documenting progress made toward civic equality, and the work still yet to be done.

Documentary Film Grants

In support of documentary films that preserve Rhode Island's stories and bring its history to life.

Major Grant Awards

Center for Independent Documentary, \$5,000 to *Blood and Watershed: The Scituate Reservoir*

Funds support the scripting phase of a documentary film exploring the creation of the Scituate Reservoir and its current role as Rhode Island's largest freshwater resource. The final film examines the multidimensional role and impact of the Reservoir on Rhode Island culture, economics, infrastructure and citizens' sense of civic agency.



Futuro Media Group, \$11,910 to UNLADYLIKE2020:

Sissieretta Jones and Annie Smith Peck

Funds support the production and premiere of two documentary shorts exploring the life and times of acclaimed vocalist Sissieretta Jones and internationally-renowned mountaineer Annie Smith Peck. The videos are part of the larger UNLADYLIKE project, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the accomplishments of Progressive Era women. The series culminates in a national broadcast, educational programs, and public dialogues.

Rhode Island Public Broadcasting System, \$11,000 to *The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball*

Funds support the production and premiere of "The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball." The film focuses on Providence's early 20th-Century Black community and the interwoven threads of race, money, sport, and social power as they affected the "national pastime" in Rhode Island.

Research Grants to Individuals

In support of independent research that captures and illuminates Rhode Island's stories.

Mini Grant Awards

Joey DeFrancesco, \$2,000 to *Rethinking the Gaspee Affair*

To support a research project reexamining Rhode Island's Gaspee Affair and the economic/social motivations of the revolutionary leaders who led the insurrection. The project culminates in a series of community lectures and a small pop-up exhibit hosted by several Rhode Island libraries.

Virginia Thomas, \$2,000 to *The LGBTQ Oral History Project of Providence and Rhode Island*

To support a research project documenting the histories and lived experiences of LGBTQ leaders and activists in the state. Recorded and transcribed oral histories are donated to the Providence Public Library and the research culminates in a panel discussion reflecting on the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.